

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of

Magnus N. NILSSON et al

Attn: Applications

Serial No.: To be assigned

Filed: September 28, 2001

For: A PROCESS FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF SURFACE ELEMENTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 2-25 without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new claims 26-56 as follows:

26. A process according to claim 1, wherein the lacquer consists of an acrylic or a maleamide lacquer.

27. A process according to claim 1, wherein the wear layer is applied in several steps with intermediate partial curing.

28. A process according to claim 1, wherein the wear layer includes hard particles with an average particle size in the range 50 nm - 150 µm.

29. A process according to claim 1, wherein the base layer consists of a particle board or a fibre board.

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30. A process according to claim 1, wherein the base layer consists mainly of a polymer.
31. A process according to claim 1, wherein the surface element contains a layer which is elastic at least before the complete curing, the elastic layer being selected from the group consisting of the base layer, a primer layer, the decor layer and the wear layer.
32. A process according to claim 1, wherein one or more glazing rollers is pressed towards the surface structured wear layer before the complete curing stage.
33. A process according to claim 1, wherein the structured rollers are heated to a surface temperature above 40°C, preferably in the range of 50°C - 150°C.
34. A process according to claim 1, wherein the glazing rollers are heated to a surface temperature above 30°C, preferably in the range of 35°C - 100°C.
35. A process according to claim 1, wherein a thin top coat is applied on top of the structured wear layer.
36. A process according to claim 32, wherein a thin top coat is applied on top of the structured wear layer after the glazing stage.
37. A process according to claim 32, wherein a thin top coat is applied on top of the structured wear layer before the glazing stage and that the top coat is partially cured before the glazing.
38. A process according to claim 35, wherein the top coat is comprised of acrylic or maleamide lacquer and optionally an additive in the form of hard particles with an average size in the range 50 nm - 10µm.
39. A process according to claim 1, wherein each structured roller is provided with a counter stay roller between which the surface element is passed.
40. A process according to claim 32, wherein each glazing roller is provided with a counter stay roller between which the surface element is passed.

41. A process according to claim 39, wherein the surface element has a thickness T and that the distance between each structured roller and corresponding counter stay is set in the range T minus 0.5mm - 1.2mm.

42. A process according to claim 41, wherein the pressure between each structured roller and its corresponding counter stay is 50 - 200 Bar.

43. A process according to claim 40, wherein the surface element has a thickness T and that the distance between each glazing roller and corresponding counter stay is set in the range T minus 0.7mm - 1.2mm.

44. A process according to claim 43, wherein the pressure between each glazing roller and its corresponding counter stay is 0.1 - 10 Bar.

45. A process according to claim 1, wherein the structured surface of the mold is heated to a surface temperature above 40°C.

46. A process according to claim 45, wherein the pressure exercised by the structured mold surface is 50 - 200 Bar.

47. A process according to claim 28, wherein the hard particles consists of, for example, silicon oxide, α -aluminium oxide or silicon carbide.

48. A process according to claim 28, wherein the main part of the hard particles consists of, for example, silicon oxide, α -aluminium oxide or silicon carbide while a smaller amount of the hard particles consist of diamond.

49. A process according to claim 48, wherein the hard particles consisting of diamond is in the average particle size range of 50nm - 2 μ m and is placed close to the upper surface of the wear layer.

Please add new claims 50-56 as follows:

--50. The process according to claim 30, wherein the polymer is polyurethane.

51. The process according to claim 41, wherein the counter stay is in the range T minus 0.7mm - 0.9mm.

52. The process according to claim 43, wherein the counter stay is in the range T minus 0.7mm - 0.9mm.

53. The process according to claim 42, wherein the pressure is 65 - 100 Bar.

54. The process according to claim 44, wherein the pressure is 65 - 100 Bar.

55. The process according to claim 46, wherein the pressure is 65 - 100 Bar.

56. The process according to claim 45, wherein the temperature is in the range of 50°C - 150°C.--

REMARKS

The purpose of the foregoing amendment is to delete multiple dependent claims, thereby minimizing the filing fee and placing the application in better form for examination under U.S. practice. No new matter is entered.

Respectfully submitted,



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